

APPLICATION FOR INCLUSION OF A PROPERTY IN THE U.S. WORLD HERITAGE TENTATIVE LIST

PURPOSE OF THIS APPLICATION

The National Park Service Office of International Affairs is working together with the George Wright Society to draft the new U.S. World Heritage Tentative List (Tentative List) of sites that will serve as the inventory of properties in the United States which the U.S. considers suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List. The Tentative List is being prepared with the involvement of property owners and other stakeholders, including the public, to guide U.S. nomination of future sites for inscription on the World Heritage List.

This **Application** is available to be filled out on a strictly voluntary basis by or for property owners of nationally important sites. Information provided by all the submitted applications will form the foundation for Department of the Interior decisions on which sites to include in the new Tentative List. Property owners who wish their properties to be considered for addition to the U.S. Tentative List must submit their completed applications on or before April 1, 2007.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Background:

The World Heritage Convention was initiated in 1973 to organize international cooperation for the recognition and protection of the world's natural and cultural heritage, first and foremost for sites inscribed in the World Heritage List established by the Convention, but also for all the heritage of humanity. The World Heritage Convention today has 182 signatory countries.

World Heritage Sites are internationally recognized through UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) as the most outstanding examples of the world's cultural and natural heritage. Currently, there are 830 World Heritage Sites in 138 countries. There are 20 World Heritage Sites in the United States, of which 8 are designated for culture and 12 for nature. The U.S. is among the top 10 of countries in terms of the number of sites on the World Heritage List.

A Tentative List is a national list of natural and cultural properties that a country believes appear to meet the eligibility criteria for nomination to the World Heritage List. It is an annotated list of candidate sites which a country intends to nominate within a given time period. (A section of the World Heritage Centre's website, which is accessible at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelist>, provides information on the Tentative List process and access to the current lists of other countries.)

The U.S. is now updating its Tentative List to serve as a guide for at least the next decade (2009-2019) of U.S. nominations to the World Heritage List. The Tentative List will be structured so as to meet the World Heritage Committee's December 2004 request that any one nation nominate no more than two sites per year, at least one of which must be a natural nomination. The number of individual sites planned to be included in the new U.S. Tentative List may be somewhat larger than 20 to permit discretion in selecting nominations and because some sites may become grouped together as a single nomination, e.g., to represent jointly an important historical theme or shared ecological relationship.

Introduction:

The National Park Service Office of International Affairs, working on behalf of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks of the Department of the Interior and together with the George Wright Society, is soliciting recommendations of sites to be considered for the inventory of properties which the U.S. considers suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List. This document provides both a general explanation of the project to prepare the new Tentative List and an **Application**, which is designed to solicit public participation in the process to develop the new list. Additional information appears in the document "**U.S. World Heritage Tentative List: Questions and Answers.**" Directions to sources of detailed advice are also provided there. (<http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/faqtentativelist.htm>).

To have a property be considered for possible inclusion on the Tentative List, the property owner or the owner's authorized representative must complete the attached **Application** and submit it no later than April 1, 2007. The National Park Service will use the submitted information to help determine whether a property meets the legal prerequisites for World Heritage nomination and otherwise appears to be a strong candidate for nomination during the next decade. If a property is selected for possible inclusion in the Tentative List, the owner may be asked to provide additional information on a case-by-case basis. The Department of the Interior will make the final determination of which sites to include in the U.S. Tentative List.

This **Application** is available on request. It is also being distributed to all who have previously requested it. In addition, it is available on the Office of International Affairs website at <http://www.nps.gov/oia/worldheritage/application.htm> and on the George Wright Society webpage at <http://www.georgewright.org>.

The Tentative List prepared through this process will be submitted by the Secretary of the Interior through the Secretary of State to the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO by February 1, 2008. The United States will become eligible to begin the process of nominating any of the sites contained in the new Tentative List for inscription to the World Heritage List starting in February 2009. The new Tentative List will supersede a similar list of sites, previously referred to as the Indicative Inventory, that was completed in 1982.

Legal Property Rights:

Inclusion of a property in the U.S. Tentative List or the World Heritage List does not in any way affect the legal status of, or an owner's rights in, a property. Final inclusion of a property in the World Heritage List includes recognition that the property remains subject to all U.S. laws applicable to the property.

APPLICATION PROCESS

U.S. law and program regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations 73) require that **all property owners must concur in any World Heritage nomination and in any proposal that their property be included in the U.S. Tentative List.** Thus, to be eligible for proposing a property for the new Tentative List, an application must include the signatures of all the owners or their representatives.

In the event that owners of properties that are included in the Tentative List change their minds as to whether they wish their properties to be considered, their properties will be withdrawn from the Tentative List and corresponding adjustments will be made in the composition of the Tentative List.

First Step: Completion of Questionnaires:

Only owners or those authorized by owners may apply. Applicants must use the accompanying **Application**, which may be submitted electronically by e-mail, on paper by mail or fax, or by mailing a compact disc containing a MS Word file.

Only a single copy is required. Please provide the necessary information if you would like receipt of the **Application** to be acknowledged.

E-mail submissions should be sent to:

icharleton@contractor.nps.gov

Mailed submissions should be sent to:

**U.S. World Heritage Tentative List Project
Office of International Affairs (0050)
1201 Eye Street, NW, Suite 550A
U.S. National Park Service
Washington, DC 20240**

Faxed submissions should be addressed to U.S. World Heritage Tentative List Project and faxed to:

Fax: 202-371-1446

To receive full consideration, completed **Applications** must be returned on or before April 1, 2007.

Second Step: National Park Service Evaluation of Applications and Consultation with Owners

Only properties whose owners submit, or authorize to have submitted on their behalf, complete **Applications** will receive full evaluation for possible final inclusion in the Tentative List.

The National Park Service Office of International Affairs will notify owners of properties that appear, based on professional staff evaluation of the initial **Application**, to be the most likely candidates for inclusion in the Tentative List. Depending on the number of responses received and an assessment of other factors, including the completeness and accuracy of the information submitted, those owners may be asked to correct or amend their original **Applications**. Joint revision of **Applications** may be recommended in some cases, if it is being suggested that some properties be grouped for inclusion together. Owners of properties which are selected for the second step of the process should be notified by May 1, 2007, with an estimated deadline for their further responses of June 15, 2007.

Owners whose properties are not recommended for further consideration for inclusion in the Tentative List will also be notified of the results and provided with a statement of the reasons their properties were not included. Owners who disagree with an initial recommendation by the National Park Service that their properties not be selected for inclusion in the Tentative List may submit a written response, which will be provided to the next level of reviewers of the draft Tentative List for their consideration.

Third Step: Developing the Tentative List:

The National Park Service recommendations will receive additional reviews, including comments by interested organizations and members of the public. After these reviews, the Secretary of the Interior, through the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks and in accordance with the World Heritage program regulations, will approve and finalize the official U.S. Tentative List and forward it to the U.S. Department of State for submittal to the World Heritage Committee by February 1, 2008. An accompanying

report will explain in detail the process and reasoning by which the sites included in the final Tentative List were selected.

Evaluation Criteria:

The criteria that will be used in evaluating and selecting sites for inclusion in the Tentative List will include the World Heritage criteria, obtaining a good balance among types of sites, and technical judgment, based on past experience, of which sites are most likely to be favorably received by the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory Bodies.

Some criteria for selecting sites will involve the scholarly process of identifying “gaps” and reviewing and conducting comparative studies of related types of sites. Comparative studies conducted by the World Heritage Committee’s Advisory Bodies on the listing of sites--IUCN (the World Conservation Union) and ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) will be carefully consulted. Because these studies leave unaddressed many types of sites, such as marine sites and multi-national nominations, it will be difficult in the short term to achieve a well balanced list for closing “gaps” in the U.S. list, especially given the small number of sites that will be nominated during the next decade.

Another factor in the selection process is that it is not possible to predict in advance how many owners will complete **Applications** requesting that individual properties be considered for the new Tentative List and how quickly nominations for those properties that are selected can be finalized and submitted. The number of **Applications** that are returned will affect the task of grouping sites and developing a long-term schedule for their consideration.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE U.S. TENTATIVE LIST

Once the new Tentative List has been established, it may not be feasible or practical to develop a schedule of the sequence for nominations that might be offered in particular years. There are a number of considerations that will impact that process including changes over time in Administrations and the need to consider owners who have already requested inclusion—in some cases a number of years ago--and who have already expended substantial efforts toward nominating their sites.

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION

Before completing the body of the **Application**, please review the next few pages that deal with “Prerequisites” to determine if you should proceed.

This **Application**, designed to obtain key information about properties being proposed for inclusion in the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List, is a simplified version of the

World Heritage nomination form (**Format**) (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/nomination>) used to nominate properties to the World Heritage List. A few questions have been added at the beginning to make it appropriate for use in the United States.

Please use this **Application** as a template. If you prepare it on a computer, you should be able to open up space between the questions so that you can avoid the use of continuation sheets. You should also feel free to adapt the language of the questions and your responses to fit the circumstances of the site or sites that you are proposing (as, for example, plural rather than singular forms).

Please try to complete the **Application** as fully as possible. If you do not know or are not sure about how to respond to a certain question, please indicate that you do not know the answer by noting that it is “unknown” or “uncertain,” rather than not responding at all.

For this **Application**, it is not necessary for you to include documentation in the form of full footnotes and bibliography, but please do give the source of any key quotations upon which you are justifying the property’s importance in the *Justification (Section 3)*.

For Additional Information and Assistance:

A written Guide to the U.S. World Heritage Program, which includes detailed instructions on how to complete World Heritage nominations and which follows the numbering scheme of the **Format**, is available to help with resolving questions that arise in filling out this **Application**. The Guide is available upon request or can be downloaded at <http://www.nps.gov/oia/worldheritage.application.htm>. Applicants may also find it useful to consult the **Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention** (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/opguide05-en.pdf>), the main written working tool on World Heritage issues at the international level.

Technical assistance and additional information about how to complete this Application will be available from:

James H. Charleton
World Heritage Advisor
Office of International Affairs
National Park Service, 1201 Eye Street NW (0050)
Washington, DC 20005.
E-mail: james_charleton@contractor.nps.gov.
Fax 202-371-1446.

Phone inquiries may also be placed to him at 202-354-1802 or to April Brooks at 202-354-1808.

In completing the **Application**, it will be useful for you to consult not only with the NPS Office of International Affairs, but also to seek advice from the U.S. International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature of the U.S. (IUCN USA), depending on the nature of the sites being proposed. Contacts for them are:

USICOMOS

401 F Street, NW, Suite 331
Washington, DC 20001
202-842-1866

IUCN USA & Caribbean Multilateral Office

1630 Connecticut Ave. NW, 3rd floor
Washington, DC 20009
202-387-4826

Learned societies, museums, professional organizations, etc., may also be asked to assist.

OMB Control #: 1024-0250

Exp. Date: 08/31/2009

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IN THE U.S. WORLD HERITAGE TENTATIVE LIST**

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:

16 U.S.C. 470 a-1 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used to help the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks prepare a "Tentative List" of candidate sites for possible nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

ESTIMATED BURDEN STATEMENT:

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 64 hours per response (ranging from 40 to 120 hours, depending on the complexity of the site), including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Office of International Affairs, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

DEXTER AVENUE KING MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Prerequisites for U.S. World Heritage Nominations

An application for a property that does not meet all of the prerequisites A through G, or for which answers are uncertain, should not be completed or submitted. Such a property cannot be legally considered. If you are in doubt about the answer to all these questions being anything other than “yes,” please contact the World Heritage Advisor at the address and phone number provided for further guidance.

Prerequisite 1 - Legal Requirements:

A. National Significance:

Has the property been formally determined to be nationally significant for its cultural values, natural values, or both (in other words, has it been formally designated as a National Historic Landmark, a National Natural Landmark, or as a Federal reserve of national importance, such as a National Park, National Monument, or National Wildlife Refuge)? If not, are there on-going processes to achieve any of the above designations and what is their status? (*Listing in the National Register of Historic Places is not equivalent to National Historic Landmark status.*)

YES: X NO: _____

Comment:

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church was designated a National Historic Landmark In 1974

B. Owner Concurrence:

Are all the property owners aware of this proposal for the inclusion of the property in the U.S. Tentative List and do all of the property owners agree that it should be considered? If any agreement is uncertain or tentative, or if the ownership situation is disputed, otherwise complicated, or unclear, please explain the issues briefly.

YES: X NO: _____

Comment:

Letter from the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees is attached.

C. Willingness to Discuss Protective Measures:

If the property is nominated to the World Heritage List, it will be necessary for all of the property owners to work with the Department of the Interior to document fully existing measures to protect the property and possibly to devise such additional measures as may be necessary to protect the property in perpetuity. Are all the property owners willing to enter into such discussions?

YES: x NO:

Comment:

The Trustees are willing to discuss converting the existing 50-year protective easement into a perpetual easement.

D. Scheduling:

If you wish a property to be nominated to the World Heritage List in a particular year during the period 2009-2019, please indicate the reason(s) why and the earliest year in which you feel it will be possible to meet all requirements for nomination. *(Please review this entire **Questionnaire** before finally answering this question.)*

Preferred Year: N/A

Reasons:

Prerequisite 2 - Specific Requirements for Nomination of Certain Types of Properties:

E. Serial (multi-component) Properties:

If you are proposing a nomination that includes separate components that could be submitted separately over several years, do you believe that the first property proposed would qualify to be placed on the World Heritage List in its own right?

Explanation: There will be a very limited number of sites nominated over the next decade. Owners of similar properties likely will be encouraged to work together to present joint proposals for serial nominations. An example would be a proposal to nominate several properties designed by the same architect. It is critical to note that the first property presented in a serial nomination must qualify for listing in its own right.

YES: _____ NO: _____ x _____

Comment: _____

F. Serial (multi-component) Properties:

Are you proposing this property as an extension of or a new component to an existing World Heritage Site?

YES: _____ NO: _____ x _____

Name of Existing Site: _____

Prerequisite 3 - Other Requirements:

G. Support of Stakeholders

In addition to owners, please list other stakeholders and interested parties who support the property's proposed inclusion in the Tentative List. Also note any known to be opposed.

Explanation: The purpose of the Tentative List is to propose candidate properties that are likely to be successfully nominated during the next decade. It is clear that a consensus among stakeholders will be helpful in nominating a site and later in securing its proper protection. Thus, only properties that enjoy strong, preferably unanimous, support from stakeholders will be recommended for inclusion in the U.S. Tentative List.

In addition to owners, stakeholders primarily include:

If definitive information is not available at the time you filled out this Questionnaire, please so indicate.

Supporters:

Mayor Bobby Bright
 Senator Richard Shelby
 Congressman Mike Rodgers
 State Representative John Knight

Opponents: None known.

Comment: Additional Letters will be forthcoming from other elected officials.

Information Requested about Applicant Properties

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY OR PROPERTIES

1.a. Country:

If it is intended that the suggested nomination will include any properties in countries other than the United States, please note the countries here.

Names of countries:

1.b. State, Province or Region:

In what State(s) and/or Territories is the property located? Also note the locality and give a street address if one is available.

Alabama
454 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama

1.c. Names of Property:

What is the preferred or proposed name of the property or properties proposed for nomination? If the site has multiple names, explain why you chose the primary choice or choices. *(The name should not exceed 200 characters, including spaces and punctuation.)*

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church

Popular and Historic names

What are any popular or historic names by which the property is also known?

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church

Naming of serial (multiple component) properties and transboundary sites.

Try to choose brief descriptive names. In the case of serial nominations, give an overall name to the group (e.g., *Baroque Churches of the Philippines*). *(Give the names of the individual components in a table that you insert under 1f.)*

Group or Transboundary Name:

N/A

Other names or site numbers

Explanation: If a site has multiple names, explain why you chose the primary choice or choices. If the site has no common name or is known only by a number or set of numbers, please explain.

The church was renamed in 1978 to reflect its historic association with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1.d.-e. Location, boundaries, and key features of the nominated property

Include with this **Application** sketch maps or other small maps, preferably letter-size, that show:

Please provide here a list of the maps that you have included.

1. Map showing local designation and property boundary and relationship to Alabama State Capitol
 2. U.S.G.S. Topographic map with UTM coordinates
 3. Site Plan
 4. First Floor Plan
 5. Basement Floor Plan
-

1.f. Area of nominated property (ha.)

Explanation: State the approximate area proposed in hectares (1 hectare=2.471 acres). Give corresponding acre equivalents in parentheses. Insert just below this question a table for serial nominations that shows the names and addresses of the component parts, regions (if different for different components), and areas.

.05 hectares

2. DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

2.a. Description of the Property

(select the one following category that best fits the property)

Cultural property

Briefly describe the property and list its major components. A summary in a few paragraphs or pages should be all that is required.

Built in stages between 1883 and 1888, the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church occupies a prominent site one block west of the Alabama State Capitol, on Montgomery's main historic thoroughfare, Dexter Avenue.

The church is a rectangular, gable-roofed brick structure, its façade broken by a slightly projecting entrance bay topped by a two-stage, pyramidally-roofed wooden belfry. The belfry is pierced on each face by a pair of slender, pointed openings screened with louvers. The main door, capped by a pointed-arched transom, is flanked by a single Gothic window opening. The same motif is carried around each side elevation of the church in a series of lateral Gothic window openings, five to each elevation. Windows are sashed and glazed with art glass. The three main elevations of the building are faced with salmon-colored pressed brick, with an ashlar cornerstone embedded into the northeast corner of the façade.

The present branched entrance stair, dating from the 1970s, rises from the sidewalk in a pair of right-angle flights on each side of a wide central landing before the main entrance. This arrangement replicates in form the original late-19th century stairway and replaces a single broad flight of concrete brick steps, with flanking knee walls, which were erected in the early 20th century. A secondary front entry directly beneath the main stair landing leads into the basement which contains offices, Sunday school, meeting area, kitchen and bathrooms. The spacial configuration in the basement dates from the era of King's pastorate. King's office and the two secretarial offices remain as they did in the mid-1950s, with wide board pine paneling, and King's desk. The central space is now used for interpretive purposes. The major change from the King era is an interpretive mural on one wall of the central open space.

The sanctuary consists of a high-ceilinged rectangular meeting space oriented toward a recessed, semicircular and arched preaching recess at the south (rear) end of the sanctuary. The railed choir loft and an organ occupy the spaces to either side of the preaching platform which projects into the sanctuary. At the opposite end of the church is a narthex with a gallery (or "balcony") above. Enclosed interior stairways link narthex, balcony, and basement at this, the north, end of the church. Wooden trim embellishing the sanctuary was presumably stained in the beginning. The present pews are not original.

Which features or aspects of the property do you believe qualify it for the World Heritage List?

The church qualifies for its associative significance with an event of universal significance. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King led the 1955-6 Montgomery Bus Boycott while serving as the pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and the vote to undertake the boycott occurred at Dexter. The boycott is internationally recognized as the birth of the modern civil rights movement and Dr. King, who first came to international attention during the boycott, is recognized for his role in the mid-20th century campaign to secure full U.S. citizenship for African-Americans through non-violent protest.

What are the important present or proposed uses of the property and how do they compare with the traditional or historic uses of it?

The church still serves as a church, with a portion of the basement allocated to museum functions.

.b. History and Development of the Property

(select the one following category that best fits the property)

Cultural property

When was the site built or first occupied and how did it arrive at its present form and condition? If it has undergone significant changes in use or physical alterations, include an explanation.

The church was constructed between 1883 and 1888 and has remained essentially unchanged since that date. Modifications over time have included addition of a restroom and kitchen facilities in the basement, electricity, HVAC and the modification of the original front stairway. In the mid-20th century the original wooden entranceway was replaced with a straight run concrete stair. A restoration in 1978 recreated the original wooden stairway using metal, concrete and wood. At that time, the church replaced the glass in the windows with the existing colored glass. The basement area where King's office was located remains much as it did when King was the pastor, containing much of the original furnishings, which are protected under the existing easement.

2.c. Boundary Selection

Propose a boundary for the property and explain why you chose it. Is the boundary reasonable on logical grounds, such as if it conforms to topography or landforms or (for natural areas) to the range of wildlife or (for cultural properties) to any historical boundary or defining structures (such as walls)?

The boundary is legally described as Lot No. Thirty two (32) fronting fifty (50) feet on the South side of Market Street (now Dexter Avenue) more or less, and running back on the West side of Decatur Street one hundred ten (110) feet more or less. This includes the urban lot that the church occupies.

Are all the elements and features that are related to the site's significance included inside the proposed boundaries?

YES: x NO:

If no, please explain:

The boundary includes the church and its urban lot.

Are there any enclaves or inholdings within the property and, if so, do they contain uses or potential uses contrary to the conservation or preservation of the site as a whole?

YES: _____ NO: x _____

If yes, please explain: _____

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR INSCRIPTION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

3.a. Criteria under which inscription is proposed

From the World Heritage criteria listed below, identify each criterion that you believe applies to your property and briefly state why you believe each criterion you have selected is applicable.

ii *exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*

 x This criterion applies to the property I am proposing

Reason:

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church occupies a critical point in the spread of nonviolent protest as a powerful means of social transformation. This **interchange of human values during the 20th century is clearly exhibited** in the adoption and adaptation of Gandhi's theories by The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders of the American Civil Rights Movement in the mid-20th century. Although King was familiar with Gandhi's work and ideas, it was during the Montgomery Bus Boycott that he came to fully embrace and understand them through the tutoring of Bayard Rustin and Glenn Smiley, who joined King early in the boycott and had been associated with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. International mass media coverage of the boycott and the subsequent successful efforts to end racial segregation in the American South conveyed and continues to convey to millions of people worldwide a pivotal example of the effectiveness and power of nonviolent resistance to change both custom and law.

~~iii~~ *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;*

YES_____ This criterion applies to the property I am proposing

Reason: **Dexter Avenue Baptist Church bears exceptional testimony to the ordinary people who ended longstanding cultural and legal traditions that denied them full citizenship in the United States of America.**

vi. be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);

YES_____ This criterion applies to the property I am proposing

Reason: **The use of nonviolent direct action as a means of achieving democracy, liberty and equal protection under the law is an idea of outstanding universal significance that has changed governments and laws around the world. Dexter Avenue Baptist Church is directly and tangibly associated with an event crucial to the international spread of this doctrine in the 20th century.** Martin Luther King, Jr. led the 1955-1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott as the pastor of Dexter; the initial organizational meeting of those who would create the Montgomery Improvement Association took place at Dexter less than 24 hours after Mrs. Parks was arrested.

.b. Proposed statement of outstanding universal value

Based on the criteria you have selected just above, provide a brief **Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value** summarizing and making clear why you think the property merits inscription on the World Heritage List. If adopted by the World Heritage Committee, the statement “will be the key reference for the future effective protection and management of the property.”

*Explanation: This statement should clearly explain the **internationally** significant values embodied by the property, **not** its **national** prominence.*

*“**Outstanding Universal Value**” is formally defined as “... cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.”*

Cultural property

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church is of Outstanding Universal Significance for its associations with the 1955-1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott and the spread during the 20th century of nonviolent protest as an effective means of achieving democratic ideals and practices.

The 20th century witnessed a major transfer of power from kings, emperors, generals, and tyrants to democratic governments. By the end of the century, the great majority of leaders on the United National General Assembly were democratically elected presidents and prime ministers. Peter Ackerman and Jack Duvall argue persuasively that this most important political change of the 20th century “ would not have come to pass without the actions of ordinary people... [using] nonviolent power .” According to historian David Chappell, “the Montgomery boycott was one of the two greatest demonstrations of the power of nonviolent protest to take place in the 20th century. Since Indian independence created the world’s largest democracy, people had been waiting to see if the Gandhian example could be replicated elsewhere. The equally dramatic events in Montgomery in 1955-6 showed the world that nonviolence could work under very different circumstances than those in India.”

Further, according to historian J. Mills Thornton, Dexter Avenue Baptist Church is a central site in the transformation of American race relations. The American Civil Rights Movement not only remade America, but also initiated currents in world affairs that are still shaping human history. America’s struggle to come to terms with its own difficulties through nonviolent means initiated an intellectual

awakening that helped free Africa and Asia from colonial rule and increased consciousness of ethnic populations to seek and achieve democratic rights.

Many of these movements explicitly identified themselves with the struggle of African Americans in the Deep South and adopted or adapted techniques pioneered by Gandhi in the struggle for Indian independence and disseminated by the success of the American Civil Rights Movement in ending racial segregation in the Deep South states.

The Period of International Significance is 1955-present. The model provided to the world by the use of nonviolence in transforming U.S. race relations in the mid-20th century continues to influence human events.

The Internationally Significant Dates are 1955-56, This is the period during which thousands of ordinary Montgomerians walked rather than rode city buses, their main source of transportation, in order to end racially restrictive seating.

Sources:

Thornton, J. Mills, III. *Dividing Lines: Municipal Politics and the Struggle for Civil Rights In Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma*. Tuscaloosa and London. University of Alabama Press. 2002.

_____. 1999. Montgomery Bus Boycott. In *Violence In America: An Encyclopedia*. ed. Ronald Gootesman. , II: 405-407. New York. Scribners.

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-acceptance.html

Ackerman, Peter and Duvall, Jack. *A Force More Powerful: A Century of Nonviolent Conflict*. New York and Hampshire. Palgrave. 2000.

Chappell, David L. *A Stone of Hope: Prophetic Religion and the Death of Jim Crow*. University of North Carolina Press. 2004.

_____. Interview with Jim Carrier, March 27, 2007

3.c. Comparison of proposed property to similar or related properties (including state of preservation of similar properties)

Please provide a statement explaining how the property being proposed compares with all other similar or related properties anywhere in the world, whether already on the World Heritage List or not.

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church is of singular iconic value in the 20th century spread of nonviolent protest as a means of achieving democracy. In the 1930s Mohandas Gandhi accurately predicted, "... it may be through the Negroes that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world." Sparked by Rosa Parks's refusal to give up her seat on a bus and supported by the year-long actions of thousands of black Montgomerians, the 1955-6 Montgomery Bus Boycott was the forge that welded Christian theology to Gandhi's philosophy and techniques and established nonviolent direct action as the guiding doctrine for the American Civil Rights Movement. This movement subsequently transformed American race relations and initiated currents in world affairs that are still shaping human history.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, led the Montgomery boycott. The initial meeting of black leaders to plan a response to Mrs. Parks's arrest took place in Dexter's basement, just one day after her arrest. That meeting set the stage for the organization three days later of the Montgomery Improvement Association, which then formalized and took charge of the boycott. It was over the 382 days of the successful boycott that King came to understand nonviolence as a set of conscious doctrines and to realize their full implications. It was his leadership of the boycott that propelled him onto an international stage, which he used to promote the power of nonviolent direct action to a world audience.

In his 1964 acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize, King said: "that movement is a profound recognition that nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral question of our time--need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression... Negroes of the United States, following the people of India, have demonstrated that nonviolence is not sterile passivity, but a powerful moral force which makes for social transformation. Sooner or later all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace... If this is to be achieved, man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."

King and Gandhi are widely acknowledged as the century's most prominent and effective advocates for nonviolence. There are other U.S. sites associated with

King, the boycott, and other prominent leaders and events of the American civil and human rights movement, but Dexter Avenue Baptist Church was the epicenter; this modest brick structure is the icon for the beginning of the modern phase of nonviolent direct action. There may be sites associated with Gandhi but the role Dexter played in transmitting Gandhi's message to the world is essential. There may also be sites associated with the subsequent unfolding of nonviolent direct action in the last half of the 20th century in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. These other places deserve careful analysis, but Dexter Avenue Baptist Church is unquestionably central in the collection of sites that reflect this important human journey.

3.d. Integrity and/or Authenticity

Explanation: As with a site's international significance, the clear intent of this requirement is that a World Heritage Site's authenticity or integrity must rise to a superlative level. Thus, for example, it is quite important to understand that reconstructions of historic structures or sites or largely restored ecosystems will usually be disqualified from inscription in the World Heritage List.

Cultural property

Authenticity: Does the property retain its original design, materials, workmanship and setting?

YES: x NO:

Comment:

The church has had minimal changes over time and remains much as it looked during the Montgomery Bus Boycott 1955-6. The major change since that time has been the recreation of the original entrance stairway in 1979-80, and the replacement of glass in the windows.

Integrity: Do the authentic material and spatial evidence inside the proposed boundaries remain in sufficient quantity to convey the full significance of the site? To tell the full story of why the site is outstanding? Is the integrity weakened by the intrusion of discordant and/or abundant elements or buildings that are unrelated to the significance and detract from the visual unity of the place?

YES: x NO:

Comment:

The church retains sufficient integrity to convey the significance of the site. In addition to the integrity of the exterior and interior primary spaces, the church retains King's office and furnishings as they existed during the Bus Boycott.

Note that that there can be authenticity without integrity, as in a highly eroded archaeological ruin. There can also be authenticity with full integrity of materials, but seriously undermined by the overwhelming presence of newer or inappropriate elements.

How do authenticity and integrity compare for this property?

The site has both authenticity and integrity.

Repairs: If repairs have been made, were they carried out using traditional materials and methods? If yes, please discuss. If not, please explain the methods used and why.

YES: x NO:

Comment:

Repairs have been made using the U.S. Department of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation. The recreation of the original front stairway combined contemporary structural materials (metal and concrete) and and traditional decorative wooden materials. The modern materials were likely used to increase structural stability and safety.

4. STATE OF PRESERVATION AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

4.a. Present state of preservation of the property

Cultural property

What is the present state of preservation of the property (including its physical condition and preservation measures in place)?

The church is in good physical condition. Maintenance—roof repair, repointing, painting-- is being carried out under the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Are there any recent or forthcoming planned major repair projects? Are there any major repairs needed to buildings or structures that have not been planned or financed?

The church is being maintained with a Save America's Treasures Grant. Work will be done using the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards and includes roof repair, repointing and painting. The congregation is also in the process of planning a separate building on an adjacent lot to serve office, meeting and Sunday school spaces, allowing the original basement spaces to be used for interpretation. The new building will connect with the existing building underground. Plans will be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office, which holds the current easement.

4b. Factors affecting the property

If there are known factors likely to affect or threaten the outstanding universal values of the property or there any difficulties that may be encountered in addressing such problems through measures taken, or proposed to be taken, please use the following is a checklist to help in identifying factors.

(i) Development Pressures (e.g., encroachment, modification, agriculture, mining)

Are there development pressures affecting the property? Or major changes in traditional land use? Or demographic shifts, especially in sites still in the hands of the descendants of their creators, or, for example, traditional ethnic communities.

YES: _____ NO: x

Comment:

The church is in a section of Downtown Montgomery that is guided by a plan that places a priority on preservation

(ii) Environmental pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change, desertification)

Are there major sources of environmental deterioration currently affecting the property?

YES: _____ NO: X

Comment:

The church exists in the climate it was designed for. Pollution is not a serious problem for the structure.

(iii) Natural disasters and risk preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)

Are natural disasters likely to present a foreseeable threat to the property? If so, are there available background data (e.g., for a property in a seismic zone, give details of past seismic activity, or the precise location of the property in relation to the seismic zone, etc.)

YES: _____ NO: X

Comment:

Are there contingency plans for dealing with disasters, whether by physical protection measures or staff training?

YES: X NO: _____

Comment:

The church has fire alarms; Montgomery has a very highly regarded fire department. Montgomery also has a comprehensive emergency plan. This plan includes recovery and mitigation.

(iv) Visitor/tourism pressures

If the property is open to visitors, is there an established or estimated "carrying capacity" of the property? Can it absorb or mitigate the current or an increased number of visitors without significant adverse effects?

YES: X NO: _____

Comment:

The church is open to visitors on a regular basis. There is not a current estimated "carrying capacity". The church is planning to move its administrative offices and Sunday school spaces into a new building to improve visitor experience and allow access to and interpretation of King's office.

(v) Other

Are there any other risks or threats that could jeopardize the property's Outstanding Universal Values?

YES: _____ NO: X

Comment:

5. PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

5.a. Ownership

Provide the name(s) and addresses of all owners:

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Inc.

If any of these owners are corporations or other nongovernmental entities, identify which are public and which private. Identify any traditional or customary owners.

Public organization owners:

Private organization owners:

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Inc.

Traditional or customary owners:

If there are any other authorities with legal responsibility for managing the property, provide their names and addresses:

The Dexter Avenue King Memorial Foundation will soon have partial legal responsibility for managing the property.

For properties having multiple owners, is there any representative body or agent which speaks for all owners? If so, does that representative body or agent have authority to act on behalf of all the owners? If so, provide the name and address of that representative body or agent:

William Gary, Chairman, Board of Trustees of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, is authorized to act on behalf of all owners.

William Gary
454 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Are there any restrictions on public access to the property?

Explanation: Public access is not required for inclusion in the World Heritage List. Policies in effect should be explained, however.)

YES: x NO:

Comment:

The church has specified tour hours

5.b. Protective designations

What are the principal existing (and pending) legal measures of protection that apply to the property?

Explanation: List, but do not attach copies of, all relevant known or proposed legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and/or traditional measures that affect the status of the property: e.g., national park, wildlife refuge, historic monument, zoning, easements, covenants, deed restrictions, State and local historic preservation ordinances and regulations, and the like.

List of measures:

Easement held by the Alabama Historical Commission

Designation as historic site under a city ordinance that requires review of alterations and delay in demolition.

The city master plan for the section of the city in which the property resides gives historic preservation a priority.

The King Memorial Dexter Avenue Foundation was created to preserve the church and parsonage.

Give the title and date of legal instruments and briefly summarize their main provisions. Provide the year of designation and the legislative act(s) under which the status is provided.

Titles, dates, and brief summaries of legal instruments:

Conservation Easement Agreement. April 11, 2006

Agreement between Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and the Alabama Historical Commission. Easement runs until 2056 and regulates the appearance and

materials of all exterior views and specified interior spaces and furnishings. It also requires the church to provide proper maintenance and repair subject to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The Montgomery Historic Development Commission and Architectural Review Board.
were created in 1967 by Ordinance 26-67, which was repealed and replaced by Ordinance 28-2004 (and the HDC became the Historic Preservation Commission) when the city adopted an ordinance that follows the current state enabling legislation.

Properties that are locally designated as historic must appear before the Architectural Review Board with requests for any changes to the exterior of the building, including demolition. The Architectural Review Board determines whether or not the request is appropriate. Decisions made by the board are binding, and may be appealed in Circuit Court within 30 days of the decision. Designation is revocable, a property owner can make a request to the City Council, which may choose to act or not act upon the request.

Are the protections in perpetuity or are there potential gaps in the protection?

YES: _____ NO: _____X_____

Comment:

The current easement is in effect until April 11, 2056. The congregation is willing to discuss making the easement perpetual.

Are there any traditional ways in which custom safeguards the property?

YES: _____ NO: _____X_____

Comment:

5.c. Means of implementing protective measures

Will the owner(s) be responsible for ensuring that the nominated property will be protected in perpetuity, whether by traditional and/or statutory agencies? If no, identify who will be responsible.

YES: _____ NO: _____X_____

Responsible entity other than the owner:

The Dexter Avenue King Memorial Foundation has primary responsibility for protecting the church.

What is the adequacy of resources available for this purpose? Please briefly explain your reasoning.

The Foundation is in the process of raising sufficient endowment to ensure the perpetual preservation of the structure.

5.d. Existing plans related to municipality and region in which the proposed property is located (e.g., regional or local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)

Explanation: List, but do not attach, plans of which you are aware that have been officially adopted or are currently under development by governmental or other agencies that you believe directly influence the way the property is developed, conserved, used or visited. Include the dates and agencies responsible for their preparation and describe their general nature, including whether they have the force of law. It is recognized that this information may be difficult to compile and that it may be difficult to decide what to include, but the information will be very useful in determining how well the property is protected.

Downtown Montgomery Plan

Adopted by the Planning Commission February 22, 2007

Planning Prescriptions, p. 3.4 Preservation is #1 on the list
Preserve, Restore, and Reuse Historic Buildings and Addresses

The preservation of historic buildings and signature public spaces is essential to the revitalization and rebirth of Downtown. The urban fabric of Downtown is the heart of this important southern city and the many buildings that tell its story must be preserved. Historic architecture should not only be preserved but restored, and re-occupied. Many historic structures have undergone restoration and adaptive reuse recently to create quality spaces Downtown. Union Station and the warehouses of lower Commerce Street, for example, host new restaurants and offices. Recently restored Victorian Cottages have made Cottage Hill an enviable neighborhood. The State Capitol Complex and Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church attract many visitors annually.

The community's commitment to preservation is evident in projects like the creation of Old Alabama town, the restoration of the Capitol, and the local historic designation of hundreds of buildings... Historic buildings in downtown should be preserved and restored to their original use, or adapted to new uses when appropriate."

Formalize the Selma to Montgomery National Voting Rights Trail.

The Selma to Montgomery National Voting Rights Trail commemorates the route of the 1965 Voting Rights March. It is a National Scenic Byway which begins in Selma and culminates in Montgomery with stops downtown at the Rosa Parks Museum, Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, the State Capitol, and the Civil Rights Museum.

5.e. Property management plan or other management system

Is there a formal management plan or other management system for the property? If yes, when was it last updated? If not, is one in preparation and when will it be completed? *(It is not necessary to provide copies, but a summary can be included if one is available.)*

YES: x NO:

Comment:

The church has a master renovation and maintenance document that dates from 2001 and was updated in 2006 to address work to be done with a Save America's Treasures Grant.

Is this management plan or other management system being effectively implemented?

YES: x NO:

Comment:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the document for compliance with the Standards. The document is effectively guiding the church in their maintenance.

6. MONITORING

Because monitoring the condition of a property is not essential to a decision as to whether a property meets the basic qualifications for nomination to the World Heritage List, no information about the property's monitoring program is being requested at this time. If the property is subsequently added to the U.S. Tentative List, a set of key indicators for assessing the property's condition, the arrangements for monitoring it, and information on the results of past monitoring exercises will be required to complete the nomination of the property for inscription on the World Heritage List.

7. DOCUMENTATION

7.a Photographs, slides, and other audiovisual materials

If recent images (prints, slides and/or, where possible, electronically formatted images, videos and aerial photographs) are available that give a good general picture of the property, please provide a few photographs and/or slides. If available, film/video, or electronic images may also be provided. They should give a good general picture of the property and illustrate the qualities/features that you believe justify the nomination of the property to the World Heritage List. (Ten views or so should be adequate for all but the most complicated properties.)

Please label the images you supply and provide a separate list of them here, including the photographer's name. Please do not include any copyrighted images or other images to which you do not possess the rights or do not have permission.

Images being supplied and names of their authors:

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church Photo list

1. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Showing Relationship to Alabama State Capitol. Jim Carrier, 2007
2. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Looking southeast toward church. Ellen Mertins, 2007
3. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Looking toward north elevation. Ellen Mertins, 2007
4. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. East elevation. Ellen Mertins, 2007
5. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Rear (south) elevation. Ellen Mertins, 2007
6. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Interior pulpit view. Jim Carrier, 2007
7. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Interior view looking north toward balcony. Jim Carrier, 2007
8. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Interior view looking south toward pulpit. Jim Carrier, 2007
9. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Interior view, looking south in King's office, showing original furnishings. Jim Carrier, 2007

10. Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. King's Desk. Jim Carrier, 2007
-

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

8a. Preparer/Responsible Party for Contact:

Name:

Reverend Michael Thurman

Title:

Pastor

454 Dexter Avenue

City, State/Territory, Zip Code:

Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Telephone:

334 263-3970

Cellular phone:

334 546-4983

Preferred Days/Hours for Contact:

Any time

Fax:

334 263- 5223

E-mail and/or website:

pastor_Dexter@knology.net

8.b. Responsible Official or Local Institution/Agency

If different from the preparer above, provide the same information for the agency, museum, institution, community or manager locally responsible for the management of the property. In the case of public property, identify both the responsible official and the agency. If the normal reporting institution is a national agency, please also provide that contact information.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City, State/Territory, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Cellular phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail and/or website: _____

9. Signatures of All Owners of Private Properties or Authorizing Officials for Public Properties:

Explanation: No property will be included in the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List without the written concurrence of all its property owners. This is because U.S. law expressly forbids nomination of such sites. In addition, at the time of nomination, property owners must pledge to the legal protection or the development of legal protection of the property in perpetuity.

Signature

Typed or Printed Name

Title

Date

(Please attach as many additional signature pages as may be necessary.)

Explanation: No property will be included in the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List without the written concurrence of all its property owners. This is because U.S. law expressly forbids nomination of such sites. In addition, at the time of nomination, property owners must pledge to the legal protection or the development of legal protection of the property in perpetuity.

William B. Gary
Signature

William B. Gary
Typed or Printed Name

Chairperson of Trustee Board
Title

March 27, 2007
Date

(Please attach as many additional signature pages as may be necessary.)



*Founded 1877
Built 1883-1889
Restored 1979-1980*

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church

454 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
334/263-3970

Reverend Michael F. Thurman, Pastor

March 22, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, we consider it an honor to be nominated for inclusion on the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List. We understand that by being placed on this list that we will be given priority consideration during the active period 2009-2019 to be selected for the permanent Site List.

Furthermore we are willing to engage in discussions about perpetual care of the historical church building and its upkeep. Currently we are engaged in discussions with the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Foundation, a non-profit organization we launched to ensure historical preservation and public education, about such matters and such designation falls within the scope and purpose of our joint missions.

Again, we consider this an honor and it would be a most fitting designation for our historic Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church.

Sincerely,

William B. Gary, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

THE
DEXTER AVENUE
KING MEMORIAL
foundation

Board of Directors

Officers

The Rev. Michael F. Thurman
President & CEO

Thomas McPherson, Jr.
Vice President

Vacancy
Treasurer

Samuel Munnerlyn
Secretary

Directors

Wanda Brown Anderson

Doris D. Crenshaw

Consuello "Connie" Harper

C. W. Holloway, Lt. Col.
USAF (Retired)

W. Daniel Hughes Jr.

Mike Jenkins

Sharon Jordan

Joseph J. Levin, Jr.

Gordon Martin

P. L. "Mac" McLeod

Yvette Smiley-Smith

Dr. Laurie J. Weil

Courtney Williams, Esq.

March 22, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Officers of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Foundation, we consider it an honor for the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church to be nominated for inclusion on the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List. We understand that by being placed on this list that we will be given priority consideration during the active period 2009-2019 to be selected for the permanent Site List.

Furthermore we are willing to engage in discussions about perpetual care of the historical church building and its upkeep. Currently we are engaged in discussions with the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church to execute a program of historical preservation and public education about such matters and such designation falls within the scope and purpose of our joint missions.

Again, we consider this an honor and it would be a most fitting designation for our historic Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Thurman, President/CEO

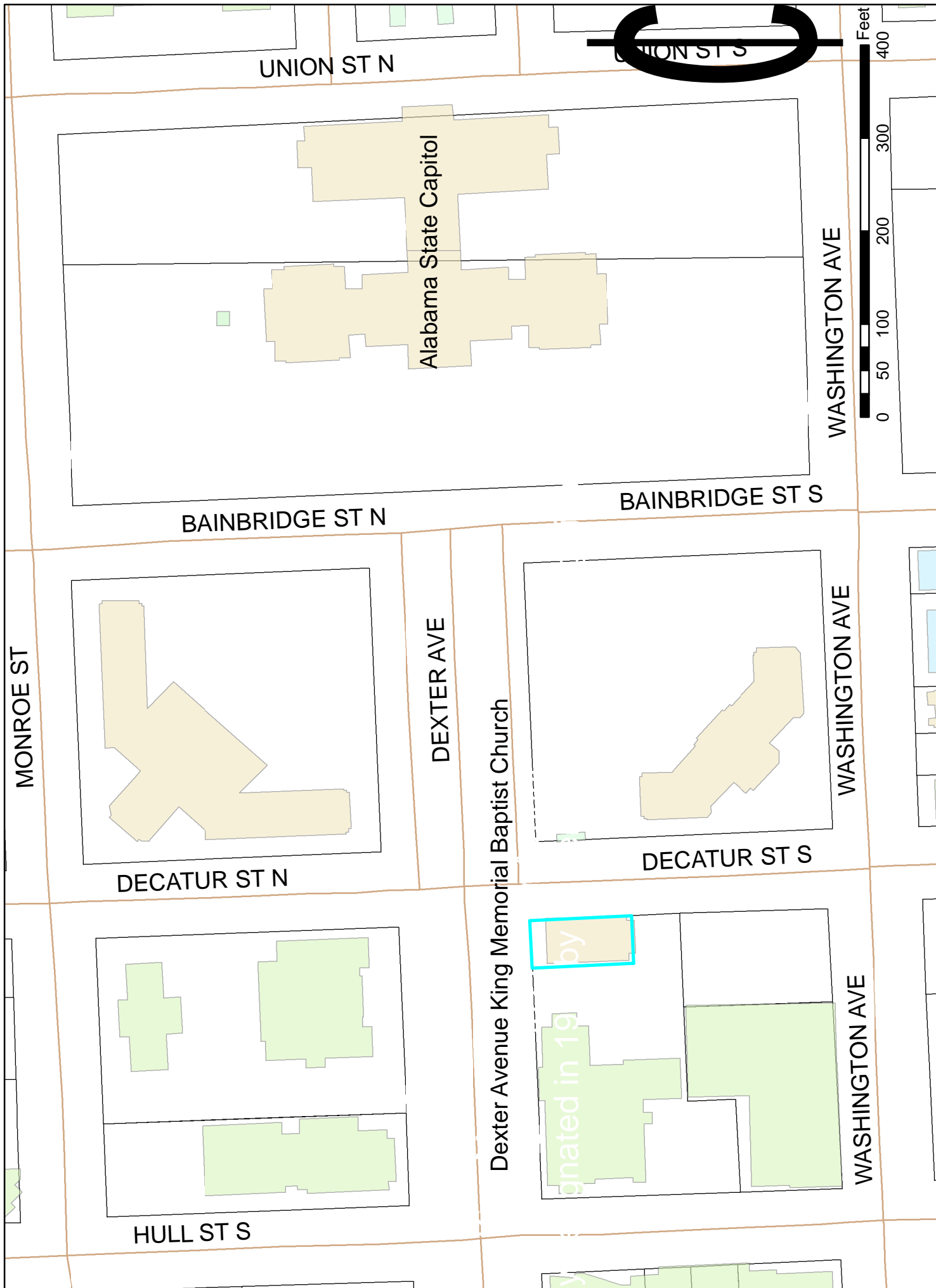
Cc: William Gary

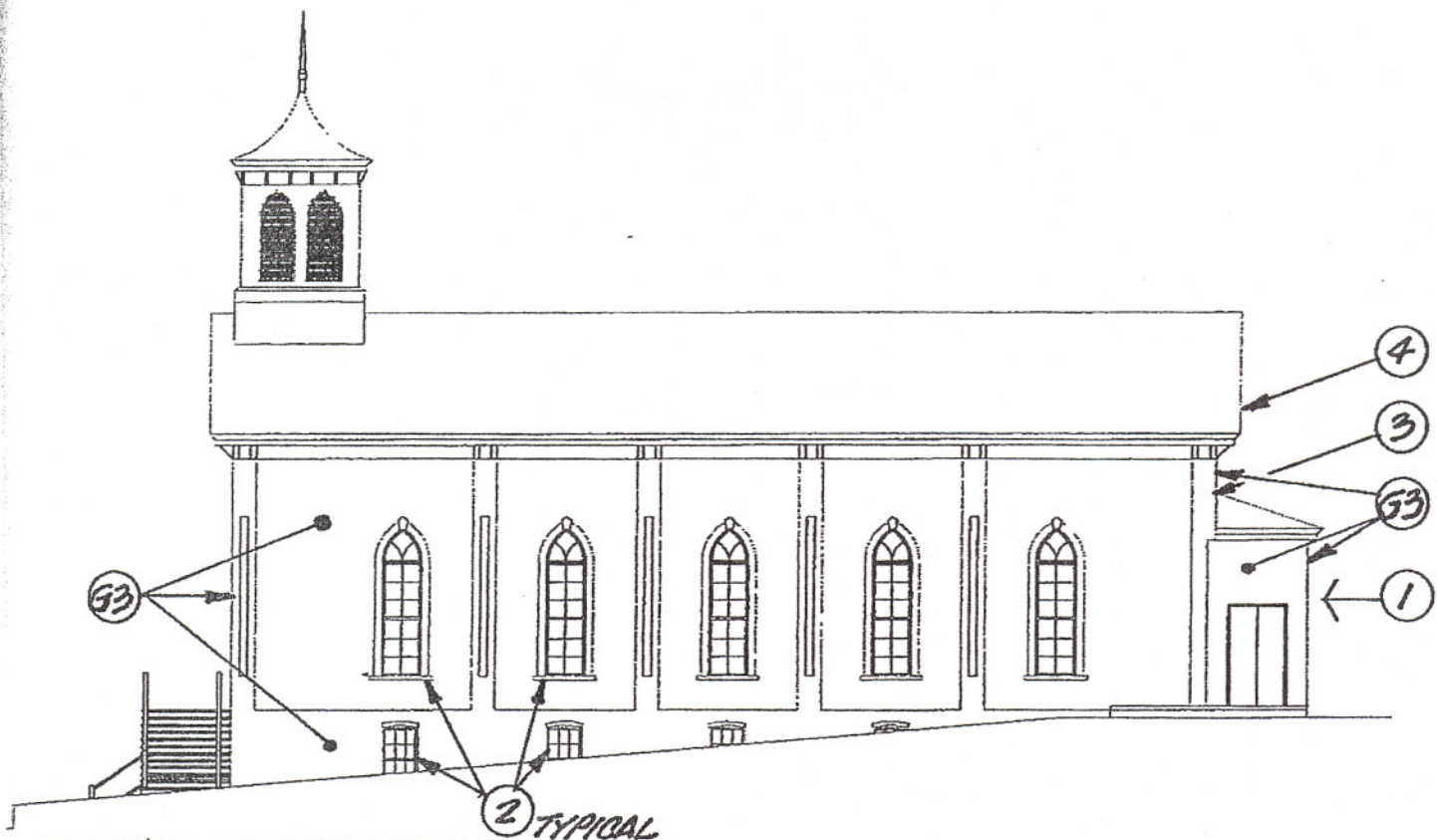


0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 1.5 km
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 mi

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Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, USGS Montgomery North (AL)
Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 16 NAD83 Datum

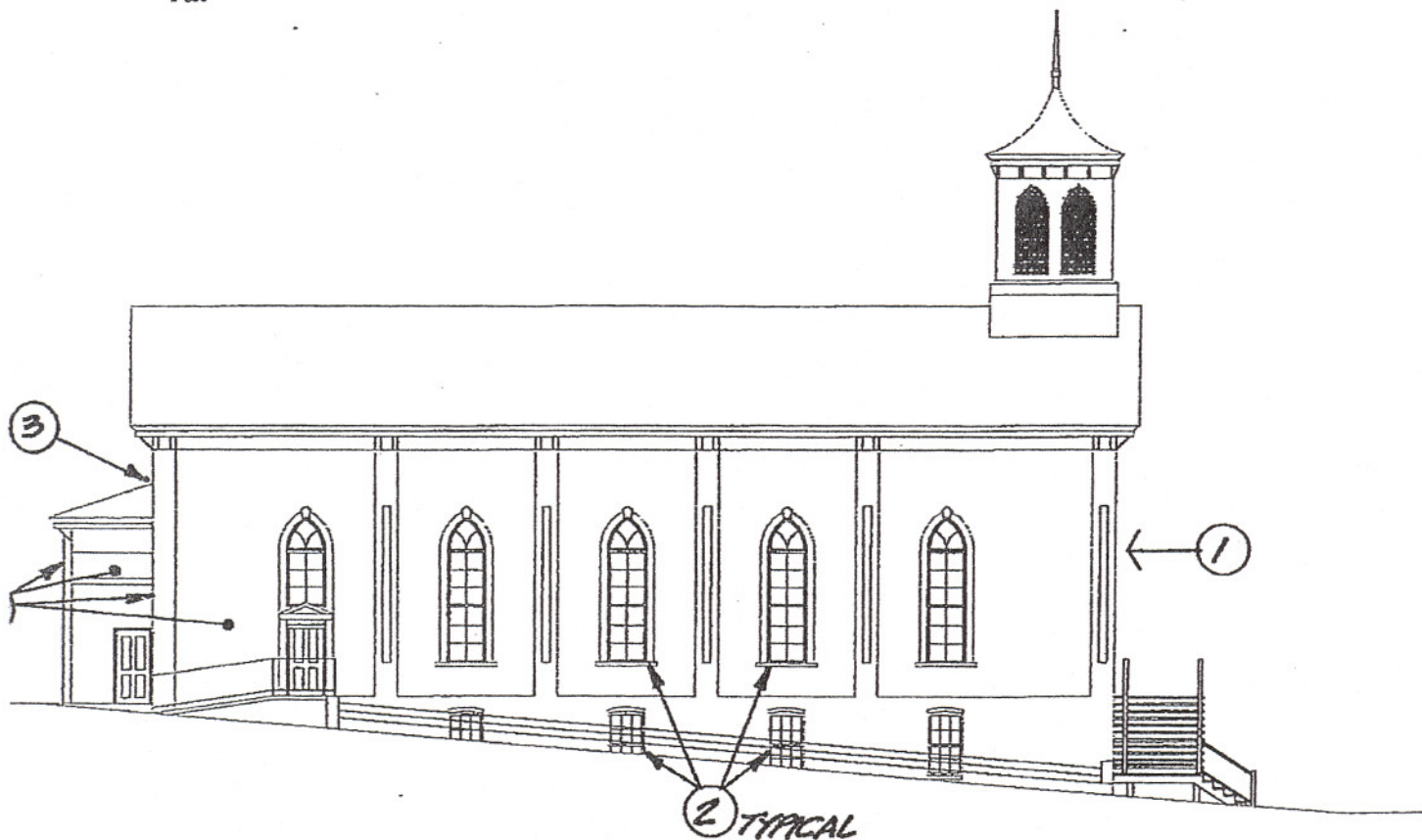
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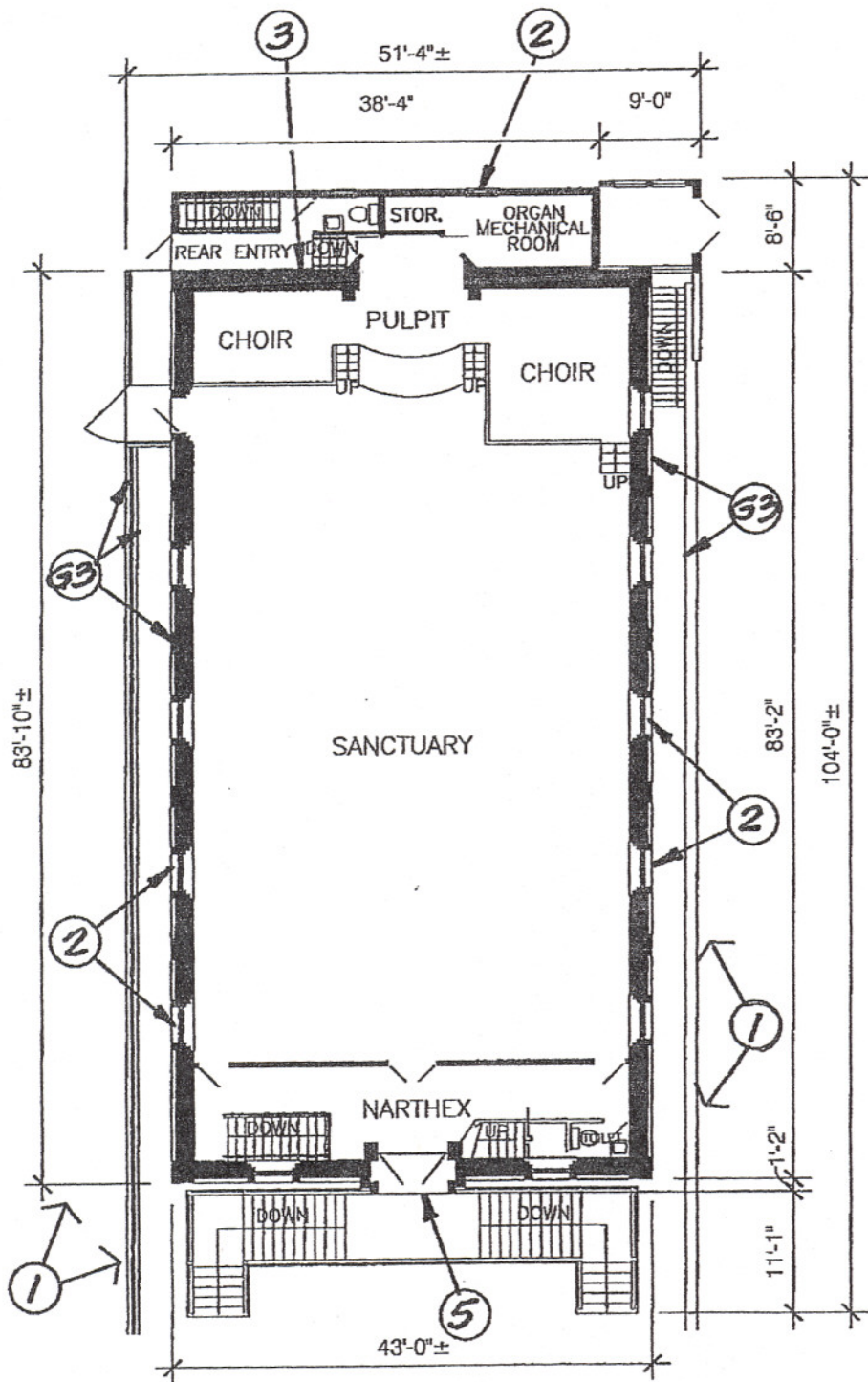
WEST ELEVATION

SCALE: *N.T.S.*



EAST ELEVATION (FROM DECATUR STREET)

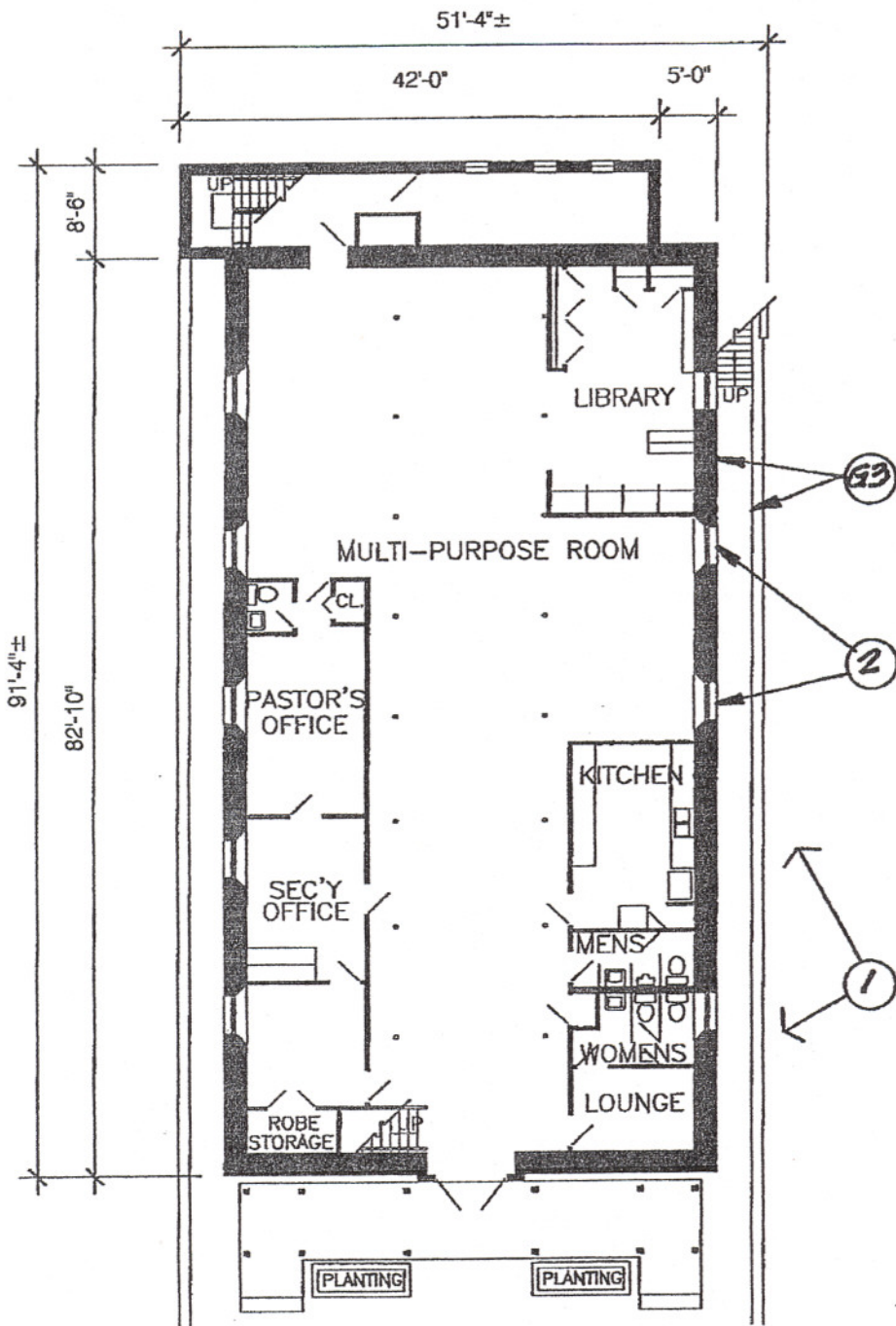
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: *N.T.S.*

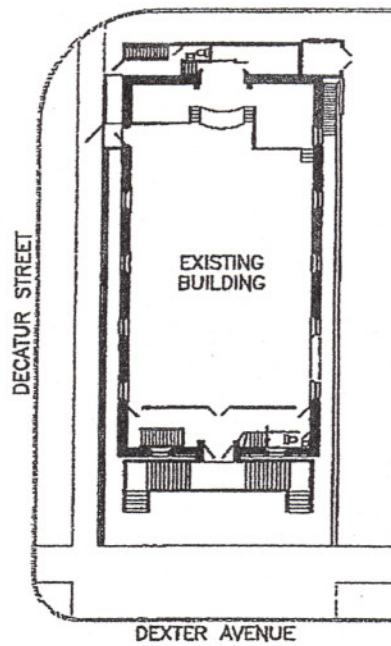




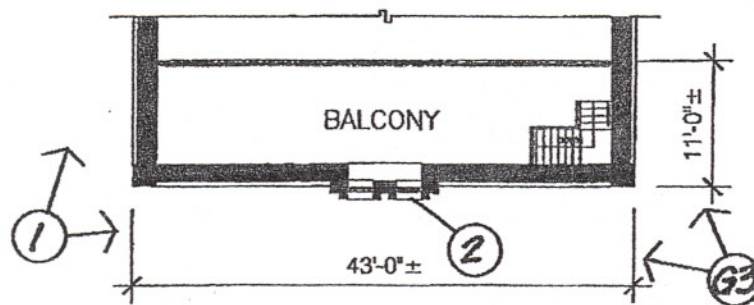
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: *N.T.S.*





SITE PLAN
SCALE: *N.T.S.*



BALCONY FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: *N.T.S.*





















